

REMARKS

In the Official Action, the Examiner raised an objection to the claim numbering, questioned the valence with respect to formula (3), objected to the phrase "as defined above", questioned one embodiment of the R3 group and raised a question concerning claim 16. All rejections on prior art grounds were withdrawn.

Although applicants do not agree with the Examiner's objection to claim numbering (otherwise an original independent claim could not be canceled and replaced by a new independent claim without replacing all the claims which depend from the original independent claim), in the spirit of cooperation, the previously pending claims have all been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and have been replaced with new claims 17-27. In this respect, new independent claim 17 is similar to previous claim 14 with new claims 18-24 tracking previous claims 2, 3, 7-10 and 15 except that claim 19 defines R3 as a group which includes a "methoxyethyloxy group" consistent with the description provided on page 10, lines 22-23 of the specification and claim 24 which refers to an "alicyclic amine" which is consistent with the recitation provided in claim 17 from which it depends. New independent claim 25 is similar to previous claim 16 and new claims 26-27 track previous claims 12 and 13.

In order to meet the other points raised in the Action, the new claims correct the structure of formula (3) so that a single bond extends to the group NR_4R_5 , the term "as defined above" has been eliminated in accordance with the suggestion by the Examiner, the term "a protected hydroxyl group" has been used with respect to R3 in new claim 17 which was previously found acceptable in former claim 16 and the phrase questioned by the Examiner in previous claim 16 has now been


corrected in new claim 25. It will be appreciated that the revisions implemented by the new claims do not substantively narrow the scope of the previous claims.

Since all matters raised in the Official Action are believed to be fully met by the instant Amendment, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the subject application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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